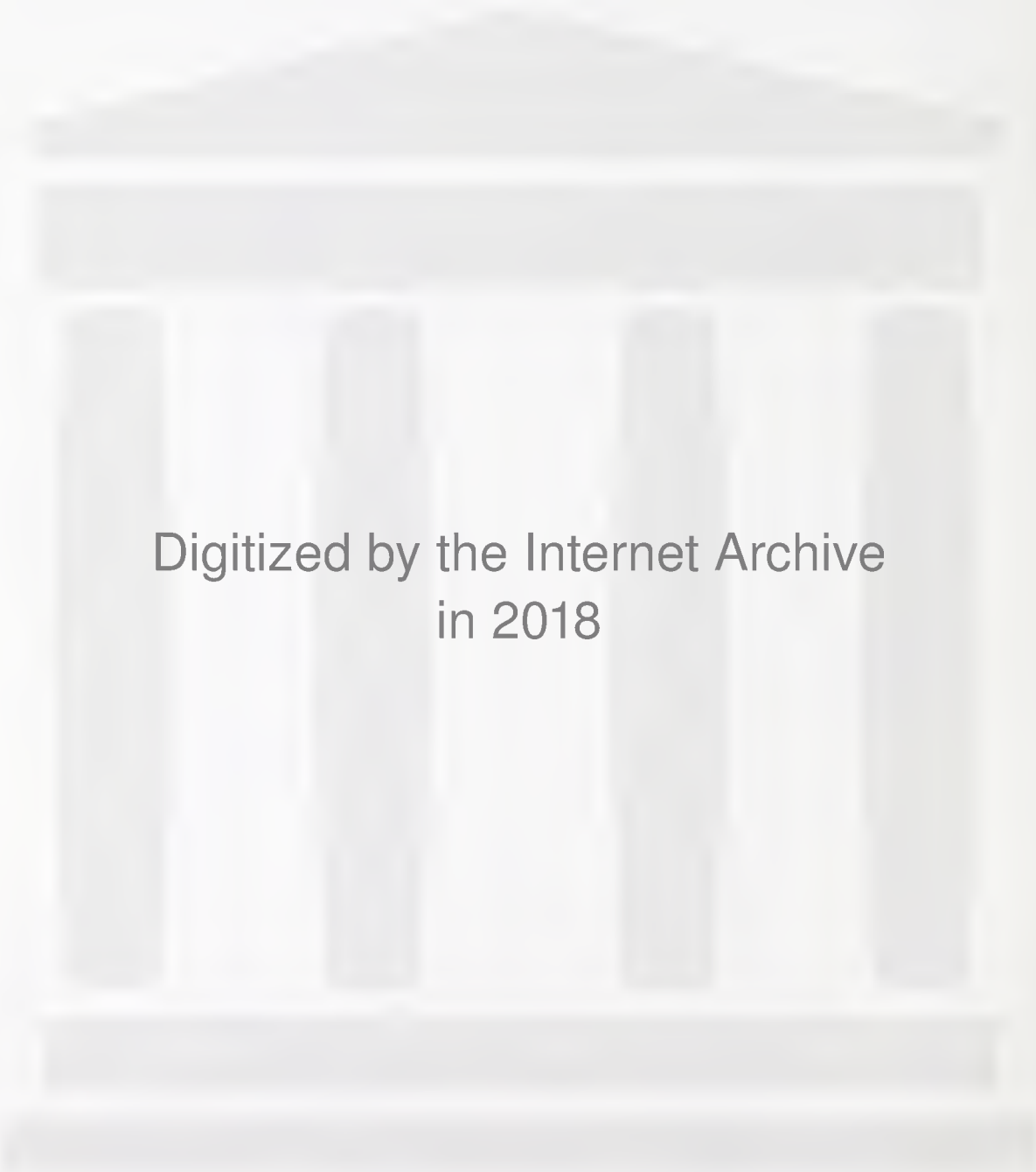


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Lineage of Wilbor Augustus Bowen

Lineage of Wilbor Augustus Bowen

Residence address: 3733 84th St., Jackson Heights, New York

Business address: 280 Madison Avenue, New York City, N. Y.

April 1931

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I am drafting the following information to use in filling out an application for Membership in the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of New York. In the paper to be filled out, I shall give various authorities and, when necessary, the volume and page number.

In a general way, the sources drawn on may be mentioned as follows:

The Family of Griffith Bowen by Rev. Daniel Bowen published in 1893, printed by DaCosta Printing Co., Jacksonville, Florida. The volume of 272 pages is in the Library of the American Antiquarian Society at Worcester, Mass., and in the Public Library at Woodstock, Conn., and in the Reading Library at Felchville, Vt. The book is very frequently referred to by Clarence Winthrop Bowen in his History of Woodstock, Conn., volume 2.

The History of Woodstock, Connecticut by Clarence Winthrop Bowen, Ph.D., LL.D. Volume 2. Over 100 pages given to the lineage of the Bowen family.

Bridgewater, Mass. Vital Records.

West Bridgewater, Mass. Vital Records.

History of Bridgewater, Mass. by N. Mitchell.

Early families of North Bridgewater, Mass. by Moses Cary.

American Ancestry, Volume 4.

West Brookfield, Mass. 1st Church Records (Correspondence)

Brockton, Mass. Vital Records.

The Planters of the Commonwealth by Charles Edward Banks.

Abington, Mass. Vital Records, Volume 1 and 2.

Recd Aug 1-1978

Brockton, Mass., 1st Church Records (Correspondence.)

Hardwick 1st Church Records (Correspondence.)

History of Hardwick, Mass., by L. R. Paige.

Hardwick, Mass., Vital Records.

Brookfield, Mass., Vital Records.

The 250th Anniversary of Quabaug, by Charles J. Adams.
(Ancient name of Brookfield.)

History of North Brookfield, Mass., by J. H. Temple.

Warren, Mass., Vital Records.

History of Princeton, Mass., by Blake, Volume 1.

Soldiers of the Revolution, Princeton, Mass., by
Blake (pamphlet.)

Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolution.

Government Census of Massachusetts - 1790.

Historical Sketch of Plainfield, Mass., by Jacob Porter.

History of the Town of Plainfield, Mass., by Charles
N. Dyer.

Confession of Faith and List of Members of Congregational
Church of Plainfield, Mass., printed by William G. Atkins,
West Cummington, Mass.

Hamlin Genealogy by Andrews.

History of Reading, Vt., Volume 2, by Gilbert A. Davis.

The record to be considered of lineage is as
follows:

John Alden and Priscilla Mullins (Mullens)
Joseph Alden and Mary Simmons
Isaac Alden and Mehitable Allen
Mercy Alden and Zaccheus Packard
Eleazer Packard and Mercy Richards
Mehitable Packard and Daniel Bowen
Dr. Elisha Bowen and Adeline Rawson
Samuel Clarkson Bowen and Catharine Jackson
Wilbor Augustus Bowen and Agnes Yergey

Hon. John Alden

The History of Bridgewater by N. Mitchell on page 85 states "Alden, - Hon. John Alden arrived with the Pilgrims at Plymouth in the May Flower, 1620; was about 21 years old, and was one of the Governor's Assistants many years, xxx, was one of the original proprietors of Bridgewater, xxx he married Priscilla, daughter of William Mullens, 1623 and had xxx Joseph, xxx."

Joseph Alden

Mitchell in History of Bridgewater, page 85, says "Joseph (2nd son of Hon. John) had his father's proprietary share in Bridgewater, and was an early settler here; he married Mary, daughter of Moses Simmons, xxx and had Isaac, xxx."

Isaac Alden

Mitchell in History of Bridgewater on page 85 says "Isaac (son of Joseph) settled in East Bridgewater, and married Mehitable, daughter of Samuel Allen, 1685, and had xxx, Mercy 1696, xxx."

Mercy Alden

Mitchell in History of Bridgewater says on Page 86 "Mercy married Zaccheus Packard, 1725."

N. Mitchell in History of Bridgewater, page 254, says "Zacheus (son of Zacheus) married Mercy, daughter of Isaac Alden and had Eleazer 1727, xxxx"

Hamlin Genealogy by Andrews quotes the marriage of Zaccheus Packard to Mercy Alden on October 21, 1725

Eleazer Packard

West Bridgewater Vital Records, page 83, state "Eleazer, child of Zacheus, Bp July 28-1728, 1st Church in Bridgewater now 1st Church in West Bridgewater."

American Ancestry, Volume 4, page 124, states that Eleazer Packard married Mercy Richards in 1751. This, of course, means "Old Style".

Hamlin Genealogy records the following children: Olive born February 25, 1751; Noah born October 3, 1752; Eleazer born March 31, 1756.

At that period the year of twelve months ended March 24th. Olive was, therefore, born about one month before the close of the year 1751.

The parents were doubtless married in the preceding April or May 1751, old style, and Olive was born in February 1751, old style.

The Bridgewater Vital Records, Volume 1, page 246, reports these three births as follows:

Olive, child of Eliezer and Mercy, born Feb. 25, 1751 (old style).
 Noah, son of Eliezer and Mercy, born October 3, 1752.
 Eliezer, child of Eliezer and Mercy, born March 31, 1756.

Mitchell in History of Bridgewater says on page 257 "Eleazer Packard, son of Zaccheus Packard. He married Mercy Richards and had Olive born 1751- Noah 1752 and Eleazer born 1756. He went westward."

John, Joseph, Isaac, and Mercy Alden

The following quotations are from the "Memorial of the Descendants of the Hon. John Alden" by Ebenezer Alden, M.D.

On pages 1 and 2 it is stated that John Alden's son, Joseph, was born in 1624.

On page 4 it is stated that Joseph Alden married Mary Simmons, and they had a son Isaac.

Statement on page 8 reads "Isaac Alden married 1685, Mehitable, daughter of Samuel Allen".

Statement further reads that Isaac Alden and Mehitable had "daughter Mercy, born October 30, 1696." Statement on the same page says that Mercy had sister, Mehitable, born March 7, 1687.

On page 13 the statement reads "Mehetabel Alden of Bridgewater, daughter of Isaac, died between 1720 and 1723."

It will be noticed that mother and daughter were named "Mehitable" and the name appears in a later generation.

On pages 14 and 15 author says "Mercy Alden of Bridgewater, daughter of Isaac Alden, married Zaccheus Packard of Bridgewater who died 1775 - children, Eleazer 1727 married Mary" (should be Mercy) "Richards"XXXX"

In the book "Early Families of North Bridgewater" on page 25 statement is made "Eleazer married a Richards. He went Westward". The further statement is made that the "father of Eleazer, Zaccheus Packard, married an Alden. Zaccheus died 1775, age 82."

In a Story of a Pilgrim Family by Alden on page 370 this statement occurs "Joseph Alden inherited land in Bridgewater and Middleboro. Married Mary Simmons, daughter of Moses Simmons of Duxbury who came in the Fortune in 1621.

Children of Eleazer Packard and Mercy

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The Vital Records of Brockton in record of births gives dates of baptism of six children as follows:

Olive, daughter of Ebenezer (should be Eleazer) baptised April 21, 1751
 Noah, son of Eleazer, baptised November 5, 1752
 Eleazer, son of Eleazer, baptised May 9, 1756
 Mehitable, daughter of Eleazer, baptised July 30, 1758
 Abishai, son of Eleazer, baptised May 7, 1761
 Richards, son of Eleazer, baptised May 8, 1763

The records state that these were all baptised in the Fourth Church of Christ of Bridgewater. This church later became the First Congregational Church of Brockton.

In the foregoing list the father of Olive is given as "Ebenezer". This is clearly a mistake for the family of Ebenezer had no daughter of this name.

A letter from Rev. Edwin H. Gibson, Pastor of the First Congregational Church at Brockton, dated March 9, 1931, says "The evidence is with you and against the vital records of Bridgewater which make Olive the daughter of Ebenezer Packard. It should read "Eleazer".

Mr Gibson also writes as follows:

"Rev. John Porter who was pastor of the church in North Bridgewater, now the First Parish Congregational Church of Brockton, kept brief records of his pastoral work and the book in the original is in possession of the church. I have scouted the records and discovered entries as follows:

"April 21, 1751 - Eleazer Packard owned his baptismal covenant.
 June 30, 1751 - Received Mercy Packard, wife of Eleazer, into ye Church, who was dismissed and recommended from ye Church in Abington.
 April 21, 1751 - Baptised Olive, daughter of Eleazer Packard.
 Nov. 5, 1752 - Baptised Noah, son of Eleazer Packard.
 May 9, 1756 - Baptised Eleazer, son of Eleazer Packard.
 July 30, 1758 - Baptised Mehetabel, daughter of Eleazer Packard."

Mitchell gives the date of the third child, Eleazer, and then says they went "Westward".

Bridgewater and Brockton Books, as far as they are available, do not give any further dates of birth. Evidently Mehitabel Abishai and Richards were brought back for baptism in the old church. Where the family was living has thus far not been determined, but we do learn about them at Hardwick, Mass. in 1765.

In Rev. Daniel's Book on the Griffith Bowen Family, he states on page 40 that his grandfather, Daniel Bowen of Reading Township, Vermont, married Mehetable Packard, and that Mehetable Packard was born June 6, 1758.

It should be noted at this point that Mehetabel, the daughter of Eleazer and Mercy, was baptised on July 30, 1758, a little more than seven weeks after the birth of Mehetable Packard, wife of Daniel Bowen.

There are no records thus far discovered that would throw light on the history of Mehetable (Packard) Bowen between the time of her marriage in 1788 and the date of her birth on June 6, 1758.

The book by Rev. Daniel Bowen on Page 49 makes it quite clear that Mehetable had a sister living at Wardsboro, Vermont, a few miles south of Reading, Vermont. Other records will show that this sister was Olive Packard.

It is the intention as this paper is continued to show that Mehetable (Packard) Bowen and Olive (Packard) Bryant were none other than the daughters of Eleazer and Mercy Packard.

There are no records concerning Olive (Packard) Bryant back of the date of her marriage in 1776.

Eleazer Packard and Mercy at Hardwick, Mass.

The History of Hardwick, Mass. by L. R. Paige on page 432 states "Eleazer Packard had wife Mercy who was admitted to church by letter July 3, 1768. She died. He married Mary Woodbury, June 3, 1769."

On the same page the History quotes children as follows:

Daniel, Baptised July 1765
Mercy, Baptised October 3, 1768

It is clear that Daniel and Mercy were the children of Mercy Packard.

The Vital Records of Hardwick, page 81, state -

Daniel, son of Eleazer, Baptised July 28, 1765
Mercy daughter of Eleazer, Baptised October 31, 1768

The Vital Records on page 270 state that Eleazer Packard married again Mary Woodberry, June 9, 1769.

The Church Records of the First Church at Hardwick, Mass. contain records (secured by correspondence) as follows:

Admitted to Church on Confession of Faith

June 26, 1768 Eleazer Peckard

July 3, 1768, Mercy, wife of Eleazer Peckard

Baptisms

Daniel, child of Eleazer Peckard, baptised July 28, 1765

Mercy, child of Eleazer Peckard, baptised October 31, 1768

Marriage

June 9, 1769 Eleazer Peckard and Mary Woodbery (from Church Records at Lambstown now Hardwick).

Dismissed from the Church in Hardwick

February 26, 1786 Eleazer Peckard to Leverett

Leverett is located several miles west of Hardwick.

Later on, there will be more to say concerning Eleazer.

Noah Packard

Noah Packard was the second child of Eleazer and Mercy. American Ancestry, vol. 4, page 124, speaks definitely concerning Noah Packard and concerning his father and mother. On this page may be found the date of birth of the father (Eleazer) September 27, 1727 at North Bridgewater. The first three children, including Noah, are mentioned.

Hamlin Genealogy by Andrews states that Noah married Molly Hamlin.

American Ancestry, Vol. 4, page 124, states that Noah Packard was found at Plainfield, Mass., born at Bridgewater October 3, 1752, son of Eleazer of North Bridgewater, born there September 24, 1727. Moved west with family. Married 1751 Mercy Richards.

This should very definitely determine that the Noah Packard of Plainfield, Mass. was the son of Eleazer and Mercy.

There is information concerning Noah Packard at Plainfield in the "History of the town of Plainfield, Mass." by Charles N. Dyer, and he is mentioned as a soldier of the Revolution from Plainfield, Mass. in "Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolution".

Mehetable and Olive Packard

In the book by Rev. Daniel Bowen, page 40, a definite statement is made that Daniel Bowen married Mehetable Packard, February 21, 1788 in Brookfield, Mass.

The Church Records of the 1st Church at West Brookfield state that there is recorded the Marriage of Daniel Bowen of Reading, Vermont to Mehitable Packard of Brookfield on February 21, 1788.

The Archives Division, Office of Secretary of State at Boston, Mass. June 6, 1930, state that the printed Vital Records of Brookfield give the marriage of Mehitable Packard and Daniel Bowen of Reading, Vermont, February 2, 1788 (this should be February 21st).

The 1st Church Records of West Brookfield record the marriage of Olive Packard to Lemuel Bryant on July 14, 1776.

The Vital Records of Brookfield on page 380 record the marriage of Olive Packard and Lemuel Bryant on July 14, 1776.

This marriage is recorded in the records of the Town Clerk at Wardsboro, Vermont, and Lemuel Bryant's home is given as at Western, Mass. It should be known that Western was the early name of Warren (three miles west of Brookfield).

The Warren Vital Records on Page 20 give the birth of the first four children of Lemuel and Olive. These are as follows:

Bryant

Abagal, daughter of Lemuel and Olive, April 16, 1777
(at Brookfield)

Elezer, son of Lemuel and Olive, November 9, 1778

Mercy, daughter of Lemuel and Olive, August 29, 1780

Olive, daughter of Lemuel and Olive, July 9, 1782

The Bryant family moved to Wardsboro, Vermont, and at least one child was born there, Mehetable Bryant. According to Rev. Daniel Bowen's Book, page 49, she was born February 4, 1787.

According to this same book Daniel Bowen and Mehetable (Packard) Bowen went at once, after marriage at Brookfield, to Reading, Vermont.

Also on page 40 Rev. Daniel Bowen gives the names of the children, all born in Reading:

Elisha, born January 2, 1791
 Dorothy, born July 30, 1793
 Hervey, born April 2, 1795
 Silas, born November 8, 1797
 Susanna, born September 1, 1799

In the History of Reading, Vermont, by Davis, Volume 2, page 200, the author says that Daniel Bowen "married Mehitable Packard in Brookfield, Massachusetts, February 21, 1788 and took his bride at once to Reading."

Names of Children

Surveys will show that in these early days given names of parents and relatives were being passed along to children quite generally. This would appear to be the rule with, of course, exceptions. There were eight children born to Eleazer Packard and Mercy. It is not clear how some of them received their names, but it is very apparent why several of them received the names that were given them.

The first child was Olive. It is difficult to find from any relatives how she obtained this name.

The next child was Noah. It is difficult also to know how he received his name. It was a Bible name and the Puritans in establishing a Bible commonwealth were using Bible names for the children very largely.

The third child was Eleazer. It should not be difficult to determine that the child was named after his father. It would be difficult to locate anywhere any other Eleazer Packard.

The fourth child was Mehitable. This name had been used by members of the Packard family and, for that matter, by other families quite largely. It is not possible to find anywhere in the several Bridgewater and Brockton books that have been examined any Mehitable Packard born near June 6, 1758 or baptised near July 30, 1758.

The Packards' in Bridgewater and Brockton were very numerous and they came chiefly, if not entirely, by descent from one emigrant family, Samuel Packer and his wife, Elizabeth Packer. They came in the boat Diligent in 1638. See "The Planters of the Commonwealth" by Banks, page 194.

For a like statement with names of descendants see American Ancestry, Vol.4, page 124.

Bridgewater Vital Records quote a Mehetable Packard married to John Ames in 1726 and another married to S. Brett in 1749. Another Mehetable Packard again is marrying B. Hayward in 1755.

Bridgewater Vital Records, vol. 1, report births in the Packard Family where the name "Mehetable" was given as in 1705, 1733, 1739, and at later dates.

We will not overlook statement previously made to the effect that Eleazer's grandmother was Menitable (Allen) Alden.

The next child was Abishai. This cannot be elsewhere located among the Packard ancestors but, again, they chose a Bible name. This name must be reckoned as an exception to the rule.

The next child was Richards. This name is not found elsewhere in Bridgewater and Brockton records. Unquestionably they gave him the last name of his mother. Her name was Mercy Richards.

The next child was Daniel. This was the name of a son of the original emigrant, Samuel Packer. The name at the outset was spelled "Packer" and so pronounced. This Daniel Packard had a son that he named Daniel in 1722. Capt. Abiel Packard had a son named Daniel in 1742.

The next and last child was Mercy. This was the name of her mother. In addition, we should remember, that Mercy was the name of Eleazer's mother, and the mother Mercy had as her own mother, Mercy wife of Joseph Richards, Sr.

It should be clear that in the case of the children - Eleazer, Richards, and Mercy - the names were especially close family names.

Children of Olive

Now, if the names selected for the children of Olive should be taken from the Eleazer and Mercy family, we would pretty nearly be obliged to reckon the Olive of Brookfield, Western and Wardsboro, Vt., as the daughter of this family, and it is important that this relationship be established.

It is certain from Rev. Daniel Bowen's work, as already quoted, that Mehetable of Reading Township, Vt. married to Daniel Bowen was a sister of Olive (Packard) Bryant at Wardsboro, Vt.

Olive (Packard) Bryant named the first child Abigail. The name is frequently used in the Packard family.

Jonathan Packard married Abigail and her daughter was named Abigail. John Packard had a daughter named Abigail in 1733. Zechariah Packard married Abigail and had a daughter Abigail. Jacob Packard had a daughter Abigail in 1754. Capt. Isaac Packard married Abigail and had Abigail in 1754. The foregoing references are from the History of Bridgewater by N. Mitchell, pages 254, 255, and 256.

The next child was Eleazer. One is forced to conclude that he was named after Eleazer at Hardwick. No other Packard by this name can be found. In the list of the Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolution the name appears only twice. In the first case it is clearly that of the father, and in the second case probably that of his son.

The next child born was Mercy. It should be clear that she was naming the daughter after her mother, Mercy, at Hardwick.

Olive (Packard) Bryant named the next child after herself, Olive.

It is certain from quotations already made that she named one daughter "Mehetable" Bryant - undoubtedly after her sister.

Children of Mehetable

Mehetable was married 12 years later than Olive and her family names had been largely taken, and apparently most of the children were named after the members of the family of her husband, Daniel Bowen.

The first child was named Elisha. This was evidently after his own brother, Elisha, who was lost at sea as a sailor in the forces of the Revolution.

The next child was named Dorothy. This was the name of Daniel Bowen's mother, Dorothy Lyon.

The next child was Hervey. This name cannot be accounted for.

The next child was named Silas. This was the name of Daniel Bowen's father, Esquire Silas Bowen of Woodstock, Conn. and Brookfield, Mass.

The next and last child was Susanna. Perhaps we cannot account for this name. It was, however, the name of Mehetable's aunt, Susanna Richards. See Vital Records of Abington. Susanna Richards was born December 1, 1732.

Hardwick and Brookfield

Eleazer and Mercy Packard were found at Hardwick in Worcester County, Mass. in 1765. As already stated, a letter of dismissal was given to Eleazer Packard in 1786 to the the Church at Leverett, Mass., several miles to the west. For many years Hardwick was the home of Eleazer Packard. It was ten miles from West Brookfield.

In the History of Princeton and in Soldiers of the Revolution of Princeton, Eleazer is reported as with the Minute Men of Princeton answering to the Lexington Alarms, and enlisted for about eight months at the seige of Boston. He is not recorded as a citizen of Princeton.

By 1790, in the Government Census, we find him living at Leverett, Mass., several miles to the west of Hardwick.

Brookfield was the pionier town. Here a beginning was made as early as 1660. This was before the start of Worcester. It was regarded as important being, as it was, on the main line from Springfield to Boston. See "The 250th Anniversary of Quabaug" by Charles J. Adams, Pages 50 and 55 (Ancient name of Brookfield).

By 1775 the older son, Noan, now about 22 years of age, had left home and was found living at Plainfield, Mass. See Historical Sketch of Plainfield, Mass. by Porter; History of Town of Plainfield by Dyer, Pages 19, 30 and 31. At this time Olive would be about 23 years of age. Undoubtedly, earlier than this, she had gone to Brookfield. She was married in Brookfield in 1776.

In the case of Olive and Menetoble moving out of Hardwick from the home into Brookfield - they would find opportunity for domestic life in homes that would not be afforded in the small community at Hardwick.

Now, it should be known that they had relatives at North Brookfield - John Packard and Joseph Packard. See Mitchell page 255, also History of North Brookfield by Temple, Pages 228 and 229.

These were brothers who moved from Bridgewater two or three years after Eleazer and Mercy had left Bridgewater, going West.

We should mention also that Esquire Silas Bowen with his second wife and several young children began life in North Brookfield in about 1776. See book by Rev. Daniel Bowen.

Family of Simeon Packard

Simeon Packard, according to "The History of Bridgewater" by Mitchell was brother to Eleazer Packard. He had a large family and here we find two daughters, one Mehitable and one Olive. Mehitable, according to Brockton Vital Records, was born in 1767. She could not have been the Mehetable of Brookfield for we know that she was born June 6, 1758. Olive, daughter of Simeon, according to Brockton Vital Records, was born in 1774, while the Olive of Brookfield was married in 1776. Further, Mitchell says that Olive, daughter of Simeon, married a Mr. Ford.

Previous records have clearly shown that the Mehetable and Olive of Brookfield were sisters, and a family with two daughters of these names must be found. The Packard Records of around 1760 are almost entirely in Bridgewater and Brockton. For instance, the Vital Records of Brockton show over 400 births of Packards. Thorough searches in these and other communities do not furnish families where there were two daughters, one Olive and the other Mehitable - only the families of Eleazer and Simeon have daughters with these two names.

Eleazer Packard

In the Records of the Packard Family there appears to be only one Eleazer (except Eleazer, Jr.). This name was not used in the Packard Family, although it appears in other families. We do not have to consider, therefore, the possibility of any other Packard family with this name. In "The Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolution" only two appear with this name - one of them is clearly the father and the other is probably the son.

In Government Census of 1790 only one Eleazer Packard appears in the State of Massachusetts, and that is our Eleazer living at Leverett, Mass. It was to the church at Leverett that his church letter from Hardwick was given in 1786.

Mehetable Packard

The name Packard, according to one authority, was spelled in the early days twenty different ways.

In the book on "The Family of Griffith Bowen" by Rev. Daniel Bowen the name of Mehetable was always spelled "Mehetable". The inscription on her grave stone is given in this way. In earlier records the name was frequently spelled "Mehitable".

Daniel Bowen and Mehetable (Packard) Bowen

The descendants of Daniel and Mehetable are found recorded in the book by Rev. Daniel Bowen, and in many instances in "The History of Woodstock, Conn.", vol. 2, by Clarence W. Bowen. Their children reaching adult life were as follows:

Dr. Elisha Bowen
Deacon Silas Bowen
Susanna (Bowen) Johnson
Dorothy (Bowen) Parker

The lineage of Wilbor A. Bowen, the writer, may be found in Rev. Daniel Bowen's Book, pages 40, 49, 78, and 126. As stated at the outset, the further lineage is as follows:

Dr Elisha Bowen and Adeline Rawson
Samuel Clarkson Bowen and Catharine Jackson
Wilbor Augustus Bowen and Agnes Yergey

Conclusion

In the Confession of Faith and list of Members of the Congregational Church of Plainfield, Mass. there is a record that Eleazer Packard was received into the church there in 1797. From previous records quoted, we know that he died in Plainfield in 1803.

One can hardly make researches like the foregoing without realizing some of the hardships of these periods, and especially one comes to believe that there was more of the heroic in the lives of the women of those days. I have especially in mind Mercy Richards and Mehetable Packard. Perhaps I will write about this in another paper.

The Vital Records of Brockton give the following information:

Abishai Packard, son of Eleazer, baptised May 7, 1761
Richards Packard, son of Eleazer, baptised May 8, 1763



